

NEW YORK HERALD

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK HERALD CORPORATION, 250 BROADWAY, TELEPHONE, WORTH 10,000.

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FOREIGN RATES: DAILY & SUNDAY, \$20.00; SUNDAY only, \$10.00; SUNDAY only, \$5.00.

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long as the roads remain in private ownership.

And what the great railway systems of the Northwest are trying to do along these lines with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission and under authority from the United States Government is what should be done with the other great systems in the rest of the country.

Fall of the Coalition Ministry.

The inevitable has come to pass in British politics. The Coalition Government of DAVID LLOYD GEORGE has fallen asunder.

But the wonder of it is not that it has now ended; the wonder is that it has endured as long as it has. For this union of Conservatives and Liberals was under normal circumstances a strange marriage. It came about, in fact, as nothing more and nothing less than a war measure. That it did not end soon after the war, that it lasted for three years after the war, is a fact which few minds could have pictured when the two great opposing political parties of the United Kingdom got together under the leadership of LLOYD GEORGE in the darkest hour the British Empire had known since the dominance of Napoleon over Europe.

No doubt the Coalition Government, even with all there was yet to be done in Europe, could not have continued for three years after the war if it had not been for the matchless personality and the matchless ability of LLOYD GEORGE, coupled with the fact that in the opposition persistently assailing him for months past there was no outstanding figure comparable to his leadership.

And the extraordinary thing about the fall of his Ministry now is that his political enemies have undone his Government with their attacks on his recent Turkish stand. But it is a certainty that if he had not done what he did in resisting the military advance of the Turks into Europe, if he had not taken the strong measures for which his hostile critics have assailed him with unbridled bitterness, the Turkish situation together with the European situation involved in the Near East question would now be infinitely worse than it is. And it is no less a certainty that the intrepid course of LLOYD GEORGE in restraining the Turk aroused the overwhelming approval of American sentiment.

What will come of this situation now no man can tell. If the so-called die hard Conservatives undertake to form a Government LLOYD GEORGE, judged by his indorsement of AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN's appeal less than a week ago, may try to help. But if there is no Conservative big enough and strong enough to head the Government as Prime Minister, or if the Conservative leaders insist upon an election, as they wish to do, DAVID LLOYD GEORGE may go into the field with a call to his old Liberal party to come to his support at the polls in a test of party strength against both the die hard Conservatives on the one hand and the emboldened Radicals on the other hand. In that role he could play a mighty part.

There is no doubt about the enormous popularity of LLOYD GEORGE with the British middle classes, the backbone of the Liberal party. Elements that have slipped away from the Liberal party in its Conservative alliance might readily return to it with enthusiasm under LLOYD GEORGE, who had done so much for the British masses in his years of conflict with the Tories.

His preeminent qualities of leadership, his splendid ability in the enormously difficult business of Government, his truly marvelous successes during the war and after the war in world situations of the first magnitude—all these facts and circumstances might again present LLOYD GEORGE to the British electorate with the most powerful appeal that any party chieftain could make. Let no body be surprised if he does that very thing.

England Alert for Her Rights.

The protest of Great Britain against the seizure of the Canadian schooner Emerald by American prohibition officials relates to an issue widely different from the Daugherty opinion. It is contended by the prohibition officials that the Emerald, although outside the three mile line, was in communication with the American shore. If these small boats were the Emerald's case against the schooner would seem plain, but the British assert that it was not the Emerald's boats that brought liquor from the Canadian vessel to our coast. The case is open to proof of fact and to the application of international law and treaty obligations.

While the Emerald case is relatively small and far apart from the issue of barring all vessels bearing liquor from our ports, whether the liquor is sealed or not, it is a significant incident. If Great Britain is quick to question the legality of the seizure of the Emerald she will be much more vigorous in defense of the rights of her merchant fleet to the accustomed freedom of our ports. There is no certainty that England is right about the Emerald, but there is a certainty that the United States is wrong in the proposed program of forbidding a ship—flying the flag of England or any other country—to enter American waters with liquor in her cargo or sea stores.

It is an accepted tenet of international law that a ship is not subject to the municipal law of the country she visits unless the conduct of the vessel and her crew is prejudicial to the safety, peace or dignity of the port. International law is part

of our law and, as JOHN MARSHALL declared, "an act of Congress ought never to be construed to violate the law of nations if any other possible construction remains." Unfortunately for the reputation of the United States as a sane nation, we find the prohibition law ridiculously construed to violate the law of nations.

Dr. Butler Urges a New Political Alignment.

DR. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, president of Columbia University, scholar, statesman, philosopher, has come to recognize the fact that our two dominant political parties have ceased to be efficient instruments for carrying on our public business of today.

Dr. BUTLER is no political theorist. He is a hard headed, clear thinking, practical man in his politics as he is in his educational and administrative work. Dr. BUTLER has been a Republican all his life, a stalwart Republican at that. For many years he has been one of the great figures in State and national conventions and one of the great figures in guiding and shaping the policies of the party.

In 1912 on the death of JAMES S. SHEPARD, candidate for Vice-President on Mr. Taft's ticket, Dr. BUTLER was put on the ticket by the Republican National Committee to fill the vacancy. With such a setting it is obvious that Dr. BUTLER is no political renegade. So when he comes out clearly and strongly for a new political alignment, as he did in his important address last Tuesday before the Institute of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University, his utterances carry unusual weight and have marked significance.

Referring to our political situation Dr. BUTLER says: "In our approach to the study and discussion of public problems, we are misguided and blinded by the influence and shibboleths of a party division which no longer represents the facts. To-day the division of office holders, office seekers and the voting public into Republicans and Democrats means little or nothing except struggle for public place and public authority. In the Congress at Washington and in many of the States, these party names have only the reminiscent significance of the label on an empty bottle of champagne."

"The time has come to move toward higher ground. The overwhelming majority of Republicans and the overwhelming majority of Democrats who are in substantial agreement on all fundamentals, should speedily find ways to take such steps as may be necessary to form a Democrat-Republican Party (to revive a name that was in use in this country a century ago), which would represent the predominant liberalism of our people. Over against such a progressive liberal party there would naturally be organized a distinctly radical party, to which should go all those who now call themselves Democrats or Republicans, but who are in reality neither."

"We should then have an honest and sincere division of political forces in this country, and the voters, young and old, would be able to choose, without being misled by false symbols and meaningless traditions, whether they preferred to throw their influence with the progressive liberal group or with the radical group."

"Under such a reorganization of political forces, our constructive liberals would be brought face to face with our destructive radicals, and the question whether the American federal form of government established by the Constitution should be preserved and extended to meet new needs and to solve new problems, or whether it should be wholly or in part overturned and discarded, would be sharply presented to the American people. Under such circumstances American political education would proceed apace."

"It is my frequently expressed judgment that free institutions can be effectively maintained over any considerable period of time only by the two-party system. The two parties must, however, be really two, and not merely two shades or aspects of one. The appeal to differ must be an honest and sincere appeal, and when a party wins or loses in submitting its program to the electorate, we must know distinctly what it is that has been won or lost. Otherwise, our political battles are meaningless and we are acting in a fashion unworthy alike of our obligations and of our opportunities."

"The overwhelming majority of Americans believe in their Constitution, their federal form of government, their guarantees of civil and political liberty and their independent judiciary. But this overwhelming majority, by maintaining a purely artificial division among themselves, play directly and daily into the hands of the enemies of America as we know it. The struggle for place and for public authority is so keen that a relatively small minority can by threatening party success or party pride gain marked concessions for its own peculiar views against the will and the principles of the great majority of those who bear the same party name."

"The radical and the destruction-

ist is entitled to his opinions, and to do what he properly can to secure their approval by steadily increasing numbers of his fellow citizens. But he is not entitled to do all this under false pretenses and while wearing a false uniform. So long as present party conditions continue destructive radicalism will gain increasing influence in this country and will do increasing damage, just because it is in position shrewdly to use one reluctant party organization and then the other, and to play them off against each other, to the great entertainment, you may be sure, of Beelzebub and all his admirers."

As to Ten Thousand Dollar Men.

IF MAYOR HYLAN and the Board of Estimate believe that \$7,500 a year is not good enough pay to obtain or hold the services of the kind of men that are needed to head the important municipal departments, or if they think Commissioners now in charge of such departments are worth more money than they are getting, they are perfectly right to take up the matter in that light. They would be justified under these circumstances in putting up the dozen or so salaries that they hold to be inadequate.

If Mayor HYLAN and the Board of Estimate feel that the salaries of the Commissioners should be \$10,000 a year instead of the present \$7,500 a year the New York public in general and the New York taxpayers in particular would not be likely to find fault with their judgment and their claims.

Ten thousand dollars is not big pay in these times and in this community for big executives who know their business, know how to work and do their work in responsible posts embracing large affairs. The principal question that sensible people would raise would be whether a ten thousand dollar job was filled by a ten thousand dollar man.

So if Mayor HYLAN and the Board of Estimate have a number of jobs that call for ten thousand dollar men and have the ten thousand dollar men for the jobs they need not have gone about boosting the pay of such men by indirect or secret methods. They need not have abandoned or postponed the salary boosts.

If the Mayor and the Board of Estimate come out with straightforward, aboveboard action to pay Commissioners what they ought to get the New York public will stand for that. The New York public will stand for anything that is right and in the open.

Al Smith as Exhibit A.

Former Governor SMITH's oratory in behalf of direct primaries might be a little more convincing to his audiences if it were not for the presence of AL SMITH on the platform.

For AL SMITH, who is denouncing the convention system of nominating candidates for office, was nominated for Governor by the convention system. In spite of the wealth of his rivals, in spite of the animosity or indifference of some of the Democratic bosses, in spite of attempted bargains, Mr. SMITH was named for Governor by the Syracuse convention because he was the choice of the Democrats of this State.

Can AL SMITH, who got his nomination for Governor without spending more than the amount of his hotel bill at Syracuse, seriously advocate the return of a nominating system which in effect compels a candidate to make two campaigns—one for the nomination and one for the election? Does he really want to bring back a system which discourages the poor man from aspiring for public office because the poor man cannot stand the cost of a direct primary campaign and an election campaign?

We doubt that Mr. SMITH, with all his native shrewdness, is doing more than going through the motions of supporting the direct primary. He is doing it because his opponent, Governor MILLER, brought back the convention system; and Mr. SMITH finds it necessary to oppose something that Governor MILLER is for.

But the voters of New York State, who saw NATHAN L. MILLER and ALFRED E. SMITH, each the leader and the choice of his respective party, nominated for Governor by conventions, have precious little enthusiasm for the confusing and expensive direct primary.

There is little reason to believe that if the primary system were still in vogue in New York AL SMITH would be the Democratic candidate for Governor to-day; there is very large reason to believe that if the direct primary system were in vogue WILLIAM R. HEARST would be the Democratic candidate for Governor to-day.

Recompense.

I think that when I look upon your face, And glimpse your old glad smile, and see again The eyes that caught their color from above; When yet once more I view the easy grace Of your light step, swift joy will verge on pain, Mine will be bliss that earth knows nothing of.

But ecstasy will take me by the hand; The brimming happiness I was denied Like sudden sunshine will envelop me; I shall be thankful that the one thin hand Which bound us broke, and cast me from your side, Since with such gladness now your face I see.

ELIZABETH SCOLLARD.

Canada's Forest Fires.

Canada has suffered greatly from forest fires this autumn. The losses include many lives and millions of dollars.

One of the worst of these fires swept northern Ontario, starting on the outskirts of the thriving town of Haliburton, which it destroyed, and continuing to Engelhart, a distance

of about 100 miles. The property loss is estimated at \$8,000,000 and the loss of lives at sixty-five.

The area was burned over many years ago and was mainly covered with jack pine. Driven by an eighty mile wind the flames covered the distance between the two towns in two and a half hours and left the ground barren of every vestige of timber or plant life. Much of the soil in the devastated territory is of a peaty nature and this added to the destructiveness of the forest fire. A torrential rainstorm prevented the further spread of the flames.

The fire was started by a man who was burning the weeds in his potato patch. This circumstance shows the danger of taking chances with fire.

Fire is a useful servant when under control but a dangerous enemy when it escapes its bonds. Ontario's losses should carry a salutary lesson to all who read of them.

Health Education Will Prolong Life and Higher Standards.

Medical authorities here agreed yesterday that the prolongation of the present expectancy of life at least twenty years within the next half century might well be brought about by a determined campaign of education such as is advocated in a resolution adopted by the American Public Health Association at its annual convention in Cleveland.

"I see no reason to regard the resolution as radical and think it is right in line with common sense," said Dr. Eugene Lyman Fiske, medical director of the Life Extension Institute. "It has long been evident that the life span of man is not determined by a mathematical span of time but by a multiplicity of factors—environment, infection, injuries, strains and faulty habits of living. These are mostly conditions that can be met by science. The proof of this is in what has already been attained. Eighteen years have been added during the last century to the expectancy of life at birth through cutting down the death rate of infants under five years of age."

"We cannot sit back and imagine we are going to extend the span of human life unless we give more attention to the chronic diseases of adult life. Most of our gains thus far have been in conquering epidemics and the diseases of children. If we can cut down the death rate of persons 45 years old and over then we may be able to add twenty years to the present length of life and also to extend the period of health and activity."

"The thing that worries me is the low standard of health people are satisfied with. The death rate doesn't tell the whole story and the average civilized man is an impaired man physically. We must accomplish as much in personal hygiene as we have in community hygiene. We must appeal to the individual to take care of himself. There should be national and periodic medical examinations and instruction in how to correct revealed deficiencies."

"We will have to look out for running off at a tangent on health fads which go far beyond common sense. The fad of severity advocated by Count de Frencheman who is shortly coming here, is an exaggeration, and you can't cure organic diseases of a club foot by keeping it in a cast."

Harbor Flags.

A tramp in ballast from the Mersey's tide Is kicking slowly up the crowded bay, While o'er her stern the Union Jack swings wide, A splendid stain across the harbor day.

Along the Brooklyn piers a barkentine In from Palermo on the orange leas Displays the national colors, red and green, Whose folds are lifting in the rising breeze.

Down through the Narrows swings a freighter trim— Oil for the Orient—where we can scan From leaning taffrail where her colors swim The streamer, rising sun of old Japan.

These banners riding on our Western gales Hint of exotic lands that stretch away Beyond the steamer smoke and fading sail, Deep in the splendor of a sunrise day.

THOMAS J. MURRAY.

Vermont's Monster Frog.

Unearthed 114 Feet Underground by Workmen in a Mine Shaft.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: In the summer of 1921 workmen while digging in a new shaft at an ochre mine at Forestdale, Vt., unearthed a huge bullfrog at a vertical depth of 114 feet under ground. The frog lay dormant in a sort of pocket or my hole, and aside from the fact of its being found at so great a depth its large size and excellent state of preservation attracted attention.

The frog measured from tip of nose to end of spine about fourteen inches and was of a light green color, in every respect resembling our common bullfrog. For several hours the frog lay as dead on the grass at the surface of the ground, then it began to jump up and backward in a convulsive manner. When several men came and came to see the big frog it was put into a pond near by and there for many years during summer nights it bellowed so loudly that its voice could be heard for miles around.

The story of the finding of the remarkable frog was told to me this summer. One of the witnesses of its discovery was Frank Rogers of Brandon, Vt., now a retired merchant of that place, and another was a man named Forestdale, who was standing at the opening of the mine shaft when the frog was brought to the surface. Mr. Rogers